Professor Agüero received his B.A. in economics from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica (Peru), a Masters in economics from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain) and a Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His main areas of research are development and labor economics. His recent work focuses on testing theories of discrimination and the evaluation of cash transfer programs in South Africa. Jorge takes an innovative approach to policies that could help break the intergenerational transmission of poverty. He is particularly interested in two key areas leading to poverty persistence: discrimination and the lack of accumulation of human capital.

Professor Bishin comes to UCR from the University of Miami. His research includes representation, public opinion, voting behavior, elections, Cuban-American politics, and the U.S. Congress. He was co-principal investigator of the 2004 Miami Dade County Exit Poll, and designed and co-authored the 2002, 2003 and 2005 University of Miami/ Zogby Poll of Latin American Elites. He is the recipient of the 2001 Jewell Loehenberg Award for the best paper on Legislative Politics. His work has appeared in numerous journals including: American Journal of Political Science, American Politics Research, American Review of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Political Ideologies, and Journal of Politics.
Farah Godrej
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Ph.D., 2006, Georgetown University

Professor Godrej joins us after completing her doctorate in political theory at Georgetown University. Her dissertation, “Toward a Cosmopolitan Political Thought: Non-Western Texts and the Methodology of Comparative Political Theory,” examines the methodological issues involved in broadening the canon of political theory to include the study of texts from outside the Western world. Her areas of research include ancient and contemporary Indian philosophy, Gandhian political thought, contemporary liberalism, non-Western feminist thought and the political theory of globalization. Her future research projects include investigating the political philosophy of the Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, as well as a comparative examination of the role of emotions in Indian and ancient Western political thought.

Charles Evered
Assistant Professor of Theatre
MFA, 1991, Yale University

Charles Evered has been appointed to teach playwriting and screenwriting at UCR as well as at the new graduate center in Palm Desert. He has won several awards for his writing. His published plays include: The Size of the World and Other Plays, The Shoreham, Wilderness of Mirrors, Clouds Hill and Celadine. He has written screenplays for Paramount Pictures, Dreamworks and Universal Pictures among others. Recently, he finished collaborating with Liev Schreiber on a screen adaptation of his play The Size of the World. His film and television credits include a feature adaptation of his play Running Funny and an episode of USA Network’s Monk, starring Emmy winner Tony Shaloub. He is currently writing a pilot for NBC/Universal.

Keith Harris
Assistant Professor of English
Ph.D., 2002, New York University

Professor Harris joins UCR after his graduate work in Cinema Studies at New York University. His areas of specialization include film, African-American and Africana Cinema, gender studies and queer theory. However, his recent research and writing interests primarily concern masculinity, performance and gender(s) as ethical constructs within performance and cultural production. His recent publications include the manuscript, Boys, Boyz, Boies: An Ethics of Masculinity in Popular Film, Television and Video (Routledge 2006) and “‘Untitled’: D’Angelo and the visualization of the black male body” in Wide Angle (2004). Scheduled publications (2006-2007) include “‘Stand up, boy!’: Sidney Poitier, ‘boy’ and Filmic Black Masculinity,” in Gender and Sexuality in African Literatures and Film and “Clockers (Spike Lee 1995): Adaptation in Black,” in The Spike Lee Reader.
Tamara Ho  
*Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies*  
Ph.D., 2005, University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Ho comes to UCR from the University of Iowa, where she held a joint appointment in the departments of Women’s Studies and English. Her areas of specialization include Southeast Asian diaspora, Asian American literature, Chicana/o literature, LGBT studies, Anglophone postcolonial studies, and transnational feminist politics. Her dissertation investigates gendered displacement, imprisonment, and the politics of intimacy in narratives about Burma/Myanmar and the United States. Professor Ho’s work has appeared in *The Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States, Word Matters: Conversations with Asian American Authors*, and *Amerasia Journal*. Her current research focuses on gender issues in human rights, immigration, and transnational intersections of race, ethnicity, and sexuality.

Jennifer Hughes  
*Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*  
Ph.D., 2005, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Professor Hughes has taught courses on Latin American Religion, Religion and Art, Global Christianity, Liberation Theology, Chicano Studies, and Native American Religion. She has done historical and ethnographic research in Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa. In addition to her academic and scholarly work, she has worked as an advocate for homeless Latinos with HIV/AIDS, as a translator and advocate for Angolan refugees in South Africa, and with the liberation theology base community movement in Brazil. At present, Professor Hughes is completing a book on the subject of popular devotion to artistic images of the suffering Christ in central Mexico.

Erith Jaffe-Berg  
*Assistant Professor of Theatre*  
Ph.D., 1998, University of Toronto

Professor Jaffe-Berg’s research interests include the commedia dell’arte, multilingualism in performance and the early-modern actress. She has a background as both performer and director and is a member of the L.A.-based theatre group, the *Son of Semele Ensemble*. Her goal is to incorporate her background in performance in researching the theory and history of theatre. She has published articles in the *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, il cannocchiale, the European Studies Journal* and *Translation Perspectives*. She is currently working on a book on multilingualism in commedia dell’arte and on several projects involving theatre representations of the Middle Eastern woman. For her research she has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Canadian government, and the UCLA Center for the Study of Women.
Edward Korzus  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., 1996, University of Georgia

Professor Korzus’ research is aimed at understanding how neural circuits hold knowledge about the world and guide behavior. He is mainly concerned with neural mechanisms of information processing as revealed through behavioral studies and with the circuitry functional organization in the cortical memory system. His articles have appeared in major peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Nature*, *Neuron* and *Science*. In recognition of his scientific achievements, Professor Korzus was awarded an NIH/NIMH Research Career Award and a U.S. Army Medical Research Award.

Tom Lutz  
Associate Professor of Creative Writing/Director, Palm Desert Campus  
Ph.D., 1989, Stanford University

Professor Lutz has taught at the University of Iowa, Stanford University, the University of Copenhagen, and the California Institute of the Arts. He is the author of *American Nervousness, 1903*, *Cosmopolitan Vistas, Crying*, and, most recently, *Doing Nothing: A History of Loafers, Loungers, Slackers, and Bums*. He has also written many shorter works in a variety of genres. He will be directing the Palm Desert MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts, and teaching courses in both Palm Desert and Riverside on contemporary and modern literature, nonfiction writing, literary theory, and related topics.

Coleen Macnamara  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Ph.D., 2006, Georgetown University

Professor Macnamara’s research interests include ethics, bioethics, moral psychology, and feminism. Her dissertation, “Beyond Praise and Blame: Toward a Theory of Holding Others Responsible,” examines the conceptual core, typology, and ethics of our practice of holding others responsible for their conduct. She was a 2005 recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe dissertation fellowship and plans to expand her current research to explore theories of praise and blame and holding oneself responsible.

Stella Nair  
Assistant Professor of History of Art  
Ph.D., 2003, University of California, Berkeley

Professor Nair is trained as an architect and architectural historian. Her scholarly interests include material culture studies, post colonial theory, and construction technology, with a special focus on Indigenous architecture and urban form in the Andes (before and after the European invasion). Nair’s current project explores the architectural and spatial transformations in Chinchero, Peru, an Inca royal estate and later an Indigenous colonial town. Among the courses Dr. Nair has taught are “Art and Architecture of the Americas until 1450 CE,” “Medieval Pilgrimage: Creating Sacred Landscapes,” “Architecture, Space, and Landscape in Colonial Encounters.”
Jennifer Rose Nájera  
Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies  
Ph.D., 2005, University of Texas at Austin

Professor Nájera is a cultural anthropologist whose geographical focus is the US/Mexico border region of South Texas. Her dissertation, entitled, “Troublemakers, Religiosos, or Radicals? Everyday Acts of Racial Integration in a South Texas Community,” is a historical ethnography that uses the concept of community to understand the process of racial integration. Her research interests include Chicano/a racial formation in the United States, Chicana feminisms, the varied processes of Mexican assimilation, and the political impact of everyday actions on larger public policy issues.

Christina Schwenkel  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
Ph.D., 2004, University of California, Irvine

Professor Schwenkel’s research interests include globalization, representation, war and historical memory. She has conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Vietnam on transnational memorial projects, post-war reconstruction and reconciliation, and the global politics of historical knowledge production, circulation, and consumption. Her dissertation examined transnational representations of the U.S.-Vietnam War and shifts in the aesthetics of memory at Vietnamese museums, war monuments, art and photography exhibits, and tourist sites. She has written on the aesthetic practices of Vietnamese war photographers and on the transnationalization of memory at former battle sites that are now tourist attractions. Her next research project will explore transnational mobilities and the legacies of post-war exchanges between Vietnam and former East Germany.

Setsu Shigematsu  
Assistant Professor of English/Film and Visual Culture  
Ph.D., 2003, Cornell University

Professor Shigematsu completed her Ph.D. at Cornell University, with training across the fields of Asian/Japan Studies, Asian American Studies, feminist and gender studies. Her intellectual and scholarly concerns include the historical relationship between U.S. and Japanese imperialisms, transnational liberation movements, comparative feminist and critical theory, and media and cultural studies. Dr. Shigematsu is writing a book which offers a cross-disciplinary analysis of the history, politics and philosophy of the women’s liberation movement that emerged in Japan from the late 1960s to the 1970s. She is also co-editing an anthology entitled, Gender and Militarism Across the Asia-Pacific, with Keith Camacho, Historian of Pacific Studies at UCLA. She was a recipient of the University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2005.

Richard M. H. Suen  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Ph.D., 2006, University of Rochester

Professor Suen joins us after his graduate studies at the University of Rochester. His dissertation, "On the Cause of Increased Longevity and Urban Sprawl: A Macroeconomic Approach," mainly concerns the causes and consequences of longevity increase during the twentieth century. His research interests include macroeconomics, health economics and demographic transitions. Dr. Suen’s current research investigates the relationships between obesity, morbidity and medical spending in developed countries.
Victoria Umanskaya  
**Assistant Professor of Economics**  
Ph.D., 2006, University of Wyoming  

Professor Umanskaya joins UCR after her graduate studies at the University of Wyoming. Her research interests include international economics, environmental and natural resource economics, applied game theory, and dynamic optimization. Her dissertation, “Three Essays on Pollution Regulations and International Trade,” explores the key aspects of the relationship between international trade policymaking and environmental regulations. Dr. Umanskaya’s research investigates the role that trade policy plays as a “second-best” instrument for addressing the transboundary stock pollution externality and creating incentives for multilateral cooperation needed to tackle such problems. Her goal is to use this research to advance understanding of the interactions between trade, the environment and public policy in an attempt to inform the ongoing debate on these issues.

Jonathan L. Walton  
**Assistant Professor of Religious Studies**  
Ph.D., 2006, Princeton Theological Seminary  

Professor Walton’s research addresses the intersections between religion, politics and popular culture. He is particularly concerned with mass-mediated religious production in America. His dissertation “A Cultural Analysis of the Black Electronic Church Phenomenon” offers a phenomenological account and ethical critique of televangelism in the African American community. Prior to joining the UCR faculty, Dr. Walton served as both a research specialist and appointed lecturer for the Program in African American Studies at Princeton University. His first book *Watch This! Televangelism and Black Popular Culture* is forthcoming with NYU Press.

Tuppett Yates  
**Assistant Professor of Psychology**  
Ph.D., 2005, University of Minnesota  

Professor Yates is a clinical and developmental psychologist who endeavors to understand how adversity and child maltreatment in particular, broadly influences developmental pathways toward psychopathology and competence. Employing diverse methods (e.g., behavioral observation, clinical interview, survey) with children and adults, her research centers on identifying the specific effects of childhood adversity across multiple levels of adaptation and influence (e.g., community, family, individual, physiological), as well as the developmental processes that underlie the emergence and patterning of these effects over time. Supported by the National Science Foundation, she has authored several articles and chapters on child abuse, self-injurious behavior, and resilience with the ultimate goal of informing prevention and intervention efforts for at-risk youth.